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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of
Thomas Roy Richard et al
Application No. 10/772,705
Filed: February 5, 2004
For: GUTTER COVER HAVING A
UNIQUE INTERLOCKING BRACKET

: DECISION ON PETITION
: TO MAKE SPECIAL
: (PROSPECTIVE
: MANUFACTURE)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R §1.102(d) filed March 29, 2004 to make the above-identified application special. The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02, item I: Prospective Manufacture.

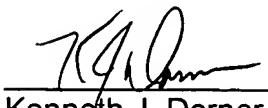
The petition is **GRANTED**.

MPEP 708.02 states that a Petition to Make Special based on Prospective Manufacture must have the following: (1) the appropriate petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i); (2) a statement by the assignee, applicant, or attorney alleging: (A) the possession by the prospective manufacturer of sufficiently available capital (stating approximately the amount) and facilities (stating briefly the nature thereof) or that sufficiently available capital and facilities will be made available upon grant of a patent, with the proviso that if the prospective manufacturer is an individual a corroborating statement from a responsible party is required; (B) that the prospective manufacturer will not begin or increase production unless certain that the patent will be granted; (C) that the prospective manufacturer obligates themselves to manufacture the invention in the U.S. in quantity immediately upon the allowance of claims or issuance of a patent which will protect the investment of capital and facilities; and (D) that he or she has made a careful and thorough search of the prior art, or has good knowledge of the prior art, and has sent a copy of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims.

The petition filed March 29, 2004 includes all of the requirements above and, therefore, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications; (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn; and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference and appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.



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kjd:12/2/04